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JC903A 11/18

9

LAS VEGAS--ADD AIRLINER (5)

CPYRGHT

AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, D.C., SAID THE AIRCRAFT, BELIEVED TO BE A C54, CARRIED AF PERSONNEL AND "SOME CIVILIAN CONSULTANTS." IT WAS NOT DISCLOSED HOW MANY OF EACH. THE AF DESCRIBED THE MISSION AS "ROUTINE."

AN AEC SPOKESMAN IN ALBUQUERQUE, N.M., SAID THE AEC HAD NO EMBARGO ON INFORMATION ABOUT THE CRASH AND HAD NO SPECIAL INTEREST IN IT, INDICATING THAT NO ATOMIC SCIENTISTS WERE ABOARD.

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(CRASH)

LAS VEGAS, NEV.—A RESCUE TEAM WORKED ITS WAY UP TOWERING MT. CHARLESTON TODAY TOWARD THE WRECKAGE OF A LARGE AIR FORCE TRANSPORT PLANE WHICH CRASHED WITH 14 PERSONS ABOARD WHILE ON A FLIGHT TO THE NEVADA ATOMIC PROVING GROUNDS.

ALL 14 PERSONS ABOARD, IDENTIFIED SO FAR ONLY AS "AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND SOME CIVILIAN CONSULTANTS," WERE PRESUMED KILLED IN THE CRASH ATOP THE 11,910-FOOT PEAK, OBSERVATION POINT FOR PAST ATOMIC TEST BLASTS. THE PLANE, A C-54 AIR FORCE MILITARY TRANSPORT, WAS BELIEVED HEADED FOR A TOP-SECRET ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION INSTALLATION AT THE PROVING GROUNDS AND MAY HAVE CARRIED ATOMIC SCIENTISTS OR OTHER IMPORTANT OFFICIALS AMONG THE CIVILIAN PASSENGERS.

TWO AIR FORCE PLANES SPOTTED THE WRECKAGE LATE YESTERDAY AFTER THE TRANSPORT HAD BEEN SEVERAL HOURS OVERDUE AT ITS PROVING GROUND DESTINATION.

THE MISSING PLANE WAS HOME-BASED AT MORTON AIR FORCE BASE, CALIF. IT LEFT LOCKHEED AIR TERMINAL IN BURBANK, CALIF., EARLY YESTERDAY AND WAS BELIEVED HEADED FOR GROOM LAKE, A TOP-SECRET BASE FOR JOINT AIR-  
AIR FORCE INSTALLATION SOME 115 MILES NORTHWEST OF HERE.

11/18--GE853A

PLANE

RIGHT

LAS VEGAS, NEV., (AP)-AN AIR FORCE TRANSPORT WITH 14 PERSONS ABOARD CRASHED HIGH IN THE SAWTOOTH CHARLESTON MOUNTAINS WHILE EN ROUTE TO THE NEVADA ATOMIC BOMBING RANGE YESTERDAY.

AN ARCTIC RESCUE TEAM FROM MARCH AIR FORCE BASE, CALIF., BRAVING SUBZERO TEMPERATURES, CLIMBED ON FOOT THROUGH THE SNOW EARLY TODAY IN AN ATTEMPT TO REACH THE WRECKAGE AT ABOUT THE 9,000-FOOT ELEVATION. THE TEAM OF FOUR INCLUDED TWO PARAMEDICS (PARACHUTE-JUMPING MEDICAL SPECIALISTS).

AT DAWN A MARCH AFB TWO-ENGINE AMPHIBIAN RESCUE PLANE WAS DUE TO TAKE OFF FROM NEARBY NELLIS AFB FOR THE SITE TO DROP A PARAMEDIC IF THE PRECIPITOUS TERRAIN AND WEATHER PERMITTED.

THE RUGGED RANGE IN THE HIGH PLATEAU COUNTRY WAS SHROUDED IN CLOUDS AND WHIPPED BY HIGH WINDS AND INTERMITTENT SNOW.

THE WRECKAGE, SIGHTED BY SEARCH PLANES THROUGH A RIFT IN THE CLOUDS YESTERDAY, LAY ON A HIGH SLOPE NEXT TO 11,910-FOOT MT. CHARLESTON, 27 MILES NORTHWEST OF HERE.

THE AIRCRAFT WAS DUE AT GROOM DRY LAKE, 50 MILES NORTH OF THE REC'S CAMP MERCURY, AFTER LEAVING BURBANK, CALIF., 225 MILES SOUTHWEST OF HERE.

JC858A 11/18

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LAS VEGAS--ADD PLANE (CORRECT). (9)

CPYRGHT

~~AIR FORCE SPOKESMEN SAID THERE WAS LITTLE CHANCE THAT ANY OF THE~~  
PASSENGERS SURVIVED THE CRASH. IDENTIFICATION OF THOSE ABOARD WAS  
WITHHELD PENDING NOTIFICATION OF RELATIVES.

JC929A 11/13